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COUNTRY China (Sinkiang)

SUBJECT **Dress and Dwellings of Sinkiang Russians**

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**SOURCE**

1. The Normal Daily Activities of Sinkiang Russians:

- a. The Russian city dwellers of Sinkiang normally arise at 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., have breakfast and report for work at either 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. The lunch hour is taken at either noon or at 12:30 p.m., depending upon whether they start at 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. They either go home for lunch, eat in a nearby restaurant, or carry their lunch to work, depending upon the distance between their homes and their place of employment and the distance to the nearest restaurant. If they carry their lunch to work, it usually consists of either sandwiches, "pyerozhki" (individual meat or cabbage pies), or a piece of "pyerog" (meat or cabbage pie) and fruit. The lunch, when carried to work, is wrapped either in old newspaper or a napkin. Their work day ends at either 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. and dinner is usually served at about 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. They retire according to individual habit, usually at 10:00 or 11:00 p.m.
- b. The Russian farmers in Sinkiang normally arise at about 5:00 a.m. in the summer and 8:00 a.m. in the winter and work until approximately 8:00 p.m. in the summer and 5:00 p.m. in the winter. They generally have their lunch at about 1:00 or 1:30 p.m.

## 2. Dwellings and Furnishings:

- a. The Russians in Sinkiang usually build brick homes, although some farm houses are built of wood. Whether the homes are large or small, built of brick or wood, they are always patterned after the types of homes that were built in Russia prior to the Bolshevik revolution.

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b. The furnishings, cultural and religious items, etc., found in Russian homes in Sinkiang vary according to the owner's social and economic level. The customs, holidays, special events, diets, homes, furnishings, and all other aspects of the lives of Sinkiang Russians are identical to those of Orthodox Russians throughout the world. Those that are wealthy import their furniture and all other necessary items from either Europe, the USSR, or Chinese coastal cities, or have these items made for them locally. Those that are poor, buy local furnishings and other items which come the closest to what they have been accustomed to, or if handy, build or make these items themselves. The only local items that most Russians in Sinkiang use are the "kazan" (an oval, cast iron pot) and the Chinese "t'asho" (cast iron frying pan with an oval bottom).

### 3. Normal Russian Dress in Sinkiang:

- a. Russians in Sinkiang whether white-collar workers, laborers, or farmers generally dress similarly. Only the quality of their wardrobe differs.
  - b. In winter they wear two-piece, long cotton underwear, which if purchased in the stores is woven. However, many housewives sew this same long underwear from white cotton cloth. Either cotton socks are worn, or the foot is wrapped in cotton cloth. The shirts are either white, colored, or striped and worn with a tie, if the individual works in an office, otherwise the collar is left open. Long sleeve sport shirts, with the collar buttoned and no tie, are also worn. The trousers and jackets are made of cotton and padded with either cotton or camel's wool. The trousers are held up by narrow black or brown leather belts with plain iron, brass or silver buckles. The trousers are worn under knee-high, felt boots, "pimui" or "valyenhi". When outside, an inverted black or brown lamb's skin coat is usually worn, the length being to just below the knees. Coats made out of the skins of wild goats and other cold-weather animals are also worn, especially when it is snowing. The fur of this type of coat is worn on the outside. Another coat, which is called a "hromovoe pal'to" and is very satisfactory the year around because it not only sheds rain but also keeps out the cold winds, is one made of black or brown domestic goat leather. In winter, a warm lining is usually clipped onto the latter coat. A black or brown karakul hat, with ear flaps and a round visor, is also worn. The only variation of this hat worn by Russians in Sinkiang, during the winter, is identical to the one just described except that it has a black or brown, stiff, leather visor in addition to the one made of karakul fur. The women wear standard feminine attire, with the exception that they also wear felt boots in winter time.
  - c. In spring and autumn the Russian men wear the same long underwear and shirts that they wear in the winter. Cotton socks are worn under regular "European type" shoes, or more frequently black or brown knee-high boots. A suit similar, but not identical, to the type worn in the US is the usual apparel. On cold days a wool sweater, either a solid color or with horizontal stripes, is worn under the jacket. When it rains either a raincoat, or a "hromovoe" black or leather coat, is worn. Either the winter "karakul" hat, or a black or brown wool "furashka" (cap) with a short round brim is worn in the spring and autumn.
  - d. In summer short cotton shorts and sleeveless undershirts are the standard underwear. The same socks, boots or shoes, shirts and suits are worn in the summer as in the winter. The shirt is left open at the collar, even by office workers, and the sleeves are generally rolled up. Either the cap that is worn in the spring and autumn, or regular business hats, that are imported from Shanghai, are worn by the Sinkiang Russians in the summer.
4. It would be hard to substitute any US products for those used by Russians in Sinkiang. Although the clothing is similar, it is still quite different. The suits are of a different cut from those seen in the US. For instance, the pleats

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on the trousers fold in towards the center, instead of outward as they do here. The shirts in Sinkiang do not unbutton all the way down. They only have buttons to the approximate level of the belt and then the two sides of the shirt are sewn together. The bottom of the shirt is cut straight. There are many other innumerable differences between the European type apparel worn in the US and Sinkiang.

the European style of clothing in Sinkiang is patterned after USSR styles and in some cases imported from there. Because of the proximity of the USSR to Sinkiang and the strong influence that the USSR has had there for the last twenty years, Sinkiang is flooded with Soviet manufactured products. Therefore, any US products that could be substituted for Soviet products would not be out of place in Sinkiang.

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